th$_e$ area and conducted rads on suspected hide-outs.

Efforts to pursuade the terrorists to release Shri Doraiswamy are corn

Meeting of Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan

585. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURt:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met on Sunday 30th June, 1991, to prepare a joint plan of action to be pursued at the ensuring SAARc Standing Committee Meeting which was held on 2nd> July» 1991.

(b) if so, the details of the plan of action worked out therein; and

(c) the action since taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI fciADHAvSINH SOLANKI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign Investment in the area of Electronic Switching

586. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Chamberr of Commerce and Industry have pleaded that Government allow foreign investment with an export commitment in the area of electronic switching; and

(b) if so, the decision of Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. KANUAYYA JNAUUJ: (.a; No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Teachers of Punjabi University, Patiala, arrested after the death of Rajiv Gandhi

587. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of teachers of Punjabi University, Patiala arrested just after the death of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India;

(b) what were the charges against the arrested teachers; and

(c) when they were released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRT M M. JACOB): fa) to (c) According to information received from the Government of Punjab, Prof. Sukh Dayal Singh and Prof. Surat Singh of the Punjabi University. Patiala, having links with the AISSF were arrested just after the assassination of the former Prime Minister. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for raising anti-national slogans in the university. They were released on June 2n and June 25th 1991, respectively.

Private Sector Participation in Tele ommunications

588. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to seek active private sector participation in telecommunications; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?•

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) (i) Government has already permitted manufacture of following types of telecommunication equipment in the private sector.

— Subscriber end equipment such as Telephone instruments, EPABX, Teleprinters, etc,

— Switching equipment upto 2000 lines.

— Switching equipment of above 2000 lines capacities based on indigenous technologies.

— Transmission equipment upto 120 channel capacity.

— External plant line stores, power plants and telecom cables.

(ii) Government have also permitted private sector to participate in the installation and maintenance of subscriber owned terminal equipments.

Revision of DTC Fares

589. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA;

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) number of times the fares of DTC were increased during the last five years together with their dates and the extent of increase;

(b) whether Government again propose to revise the fare structure of DTC;

(c) the quantaim of losses suffered by DTC during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government have any proposals to effect economy in DTC and Improve its service; and

(e) what was the strength of its fleet during 1989, 1990 and 1991 and whether Government propose to increase the existing fleet?

THE MINISTER OP STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) There has been no increase in fares during the last five years.

(b) Government have not yet taken any decision to revise the fare structure of DTC.

(c) The net loss suffered by D.T.C. during the last three years is indicated below:—

(Rs. in lafihs).

Year	Not loss (including depreciation and interest).
1988-89	9899.32
1989-90	11984.86
1990-91	19748.35 (Provisional)

The reasons for the losses are:—

(1) Uneconomic fare structure oJ DTC.

(2) Rising costs of labour and material inputs.

(3) Concessions given to students and weaker sections of the society through concessional passes.

(d) Government is continually monitoring the performance of DTC with a view to increase its productivity and to reduce the cost of operations, enforce economy measures, prevent leakages with a view to increase revenue collection and reduce working losses. Rationalisation of routes is another measure which is undertaken by DTC for improving its performance.

(e) D.T.C. fleet during 1988-89, 19B9-90 and 1990-91 was 4248, 4399. and 4392 respectively. There is no proposal to increase the existing fleet.